THE HUMBLE

ADDRESES

OF SEVERAL

Close Prisoners

IN THE

GATEHOUSE, *WESTMINSTER*;

TO THE

KING'S MAJESTY and COUNCIL,

TO THE

LORD HIGH CHANCELOR,

And the

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, and JUDGES of the *Kings Bench*; to manifest their Innocency, and to obtain their Liberty.

Together, with a RELATION of their *Illegal, Cruel* and *Hard Usage*, under many weeks Confinement.

Psal. 37. 12, 13. *The Wicked plotteth against the Just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth his day is coming.*

Psal. 88. 8, 9, 10. *Thou hast put away mine Acquaintance far from me; — I am shut up, and I cannot come forth, &c.*

LONDON, Printed in the year, 1662.

Feb 20 1661

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Phil. 1. 12, 13. *The Bishop's Letters bearing the Just, and [illegible] upon him [illegible]. The Lord [illegible] [illegible] for he [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].*

Phil. 88. 8, 9, 10. *Then hast put [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]; — I am shut up, and I cannot come forth, &c.*

LONDON, Printed in the year, 1662.

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The humble ADDRESSES *of several close Prisoners in the* Gate-house, Westminster, *to the* Kings Majesty *and* Council, *to the* Lord high Chancelor, *and the* Lord chief Justice, *and* Judges *of the* Kings Bench: *to manifest their Innocency, and to obtain their Liberty.*

ALbeit our illegal Apprehending, and cruel close Detainor, administred to us and our families just occasion of Sorrow, yet that which aggravated our misery, was the odious Infamy cast upon us and our Relations, both in City and Country, as if we, amongst others, were Actors or Contrivers of some *horrid Plot*, and being publickly aspersed as those who necessitated the loading the Nation with *more Taxes*, by which our Credits and Reputations were not a little wounded; and even our Friends in many places blaming our silence, as if we had neglected our humble Addresses to his Majesty, or Applications to the Honourable Judges of the Law, for the Vindication of our Innocency and Fidelity; for whose better information and satisfaction we have caused our Proceedings to be published, whereby it may appear that the Circumstances of our Condition considered, there hath been no means left unattempted.

We shall forbear to mention the Addresses of our Wives apart to his Majesty and Council, taking no pleasure to remember how many weeks, some coming from far, and continuing here to no little charge, they attended the Council every day of their sitting, reaping no other benefit thereby to this day, than Order for some of them in the presence of the *Keeper* to see their Husbands; by converse with whom, being fully confirmed of what before they were not in the least suspicious, (*viz.* their Innocency and Integrity) were further encouraged to present their joynt Petition to his Majesty and Council, as followeth.

To the Kings most excellent Majesty, and to the Lords of his Majesties most Honourable Privy Council.

The humble Petition of the Wives of several Persons Close-Prisoners in the Gate-house.

Humbly sheweth,

THat your Petitioners Husbands were apprehended by Messengers at their own houses, about twelve weeks since, and carried to the *Gate-house*, where with all patience they have endured a close and chargeable Imprisonment, not knowing any Accuser or Accusation; nor can they by any means address themselves to this honourable Council, being denyed Pen, Ink and Paper: Some of your Petitioners, by Order, have obtained leave to visit them, and do finde that they are altogether ignorant of any Plot or Design against his Majesties Person or Government, and that if any thing of that nature be charged on them, they would be glad that they might be brought to a legal Tryal, that so their Innocency might be vindicated. And forasmuch as your Petitioners Husbands, for the most part, are very poor, having nothing left but their own Industry to maintain themselves and Families; and that as it hath been their Care, so we are confident shall be, to live peaceably under his Majesties Government.

Therefore your Petitioners do most humbly pray, That your Majesty and this honourable Council would be pleased to grant your Petitioners Husbands their Liberty, or otherwise that they might be brought to a speedy Tryal according to Law, That so them and their Families may not utterly be destroyed, and that for the future, they may have the Protection of the Law, to encourage them to follow their Callings. And your Petitioners shall pray, &c.

Susanna Lytcott. *Sarah Wilkes.* *Elizabeth Packer.*
Alice Reade. *Martha Kenwrick.* *Jane Mason.*
Mary Gladman. *Sarah Wansey.* *Susanna Newman.*
Anne Chaffin.

Which

Which Petition being read, Answer was returned by one of the Clerks attending the Council, That a Committee would be appointed to give their Husbands a speedy Dispatch, which caused their further constant attendance; but not hearing of any such Committee, they about a month after humbly presented to several of the Lords, as they were going to sit in Council, the following *Memorial.*

Right Honourable,

BE pleased to Remember the sad and deplorable Condition of our Husbands, Close Prisoners in the Gate-house, *presented by our Petition to his Majesty and Council about a month since; they having been near sixteen weeks under a severe Confinement, and not conscious of any Crime; So that except your Honours out of tender Compassion give a speedy Answer to our humble and just Desires, they and their Families must suffer inevitable Ruine.*

And upon their attendance that Council-day, Answer was given, that nothing would be done at the Council, the business being referred to the Lord Chief Justice; But hearing nothing further thereof, the Term also near the end, We did humbly conceive, by the advice of our Friends, it might be most satisfactory to his Majesty, and expeditious for our selves, to be brought before his Lordship by the Writ of *Habeas Corpus,* which being sued forth and made Returnable immediatly, was also served upon the Keeper, Sir *Edward Broughton,* on Saturday the 8th of *February* 166[illegible]1, our Solicitor having acquainted the Atturney General with this Proceeding, desiring there might be no delay, but if any thing were against the Prisoners, the Court might be acquainted therewith upon their appearing at the Bar, which they expected should be the Monday following, The Deputy-keepers having told them the VVrits would be obeyed, unless their Master, Sir *Edw. Broughton,* received Orders from the Secretary to the contrary; who notwithstanding disobeyed his Majesties VVrits, and injuriously broke his Promise with us, which lost our opportunity of taking out second Writs, and occasioned our humble Address to the Honourable the Judges by the following Letters presented to, and read by them, the Court sitting.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lord Chief Justice of the Kings-Bench at Westminster, *these humbly present.*

MAy it please your Honour to be informed, That our selves and divers others within this Prison, have by our Wives and Friends petitioned and solicited his Majesty and Council these sixteen weeks and more to procure our Enlargement, but can neither obtain that, nor so much as knowledge wherefore we are committed, nor a Copy of our *Mittimus*; but were some few dayes since informed by a Clerk of the Council, that We and our Case were referred to your Lordship, the which hath invited our Friends to procure an *Habeas Corpus* to bring us this day before your Bar; but our Keeper, Sir *Edward Broughton*, having abused us, by exacting of Fees and Chamber-Rent, refuseth to bring us before your Lordship.

WVe therefore humbly desire, that a Tipstaff may be sent to morrow for such of us as have shewed out our *Habeas Corpus*, so that your Honour may not onely be informed of the cause of our close Imprisonment (the which we are ignorant of) but also of the cruel usage we have and do daily suffer in our Persons, Estates, and Names, even to the Utter Ruine of some, and almost Undoing of the rest, as the inclosed Case of one of our number will more particularly manifest, who was forced thus to present it, fearing the Keeper will not bring him to your Bar with the rest. The truth of all which will be made good, if we shall have the happiness to be brought before your Lordship: which is the humble Petition and Desires of your Lordships most humble Servants.

William Kenwrick, *Leonard Lytcott*,
John Mason, *Timothy Wilkes*,
From the Gate- *Henry Wansey*, *William Newman*,
house *Westminst.* *John Chaffin*.
Febr. 11. 1661.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lord Chief Justice of the Kings-Bench at *Westminster*, these humbly present.

Right Honourable,

Upon the 26th of October *last, being in my Shop in* Threed-needle-street, London, *I was taken by Pursevants, or Messengers, who said they had Order to carry me before one of the Secretaries of State at* White-hall, *to answer the breach of a Bond I had formerly given when discharged from my Imprisonment in the Tower of* London; *but they, without carrying me before the said Secretaries, or any other Magistrate, had me to Sir* Edward Broughton *the Keeper of the* Gatehouse *Prison, who said to me,* You are my Prisoner, and to be kept close. *I asked him by what Authority, and desired a sight and Copy of my Commitment: He read me the first line of the Warrant, and said,* It was enough for me to know it was his Majesties pleasure I should be so kept. *I then told him, that my Estate was taken from me, and but little left besides my Watch-making Trade to keep me alive, and that if I had my Tools and accommodation to work, I could both pay him my Chamber-rent, and maintain my self, and otherwayes I could not do it.* Sir Edward Broughton *then promised me upon his Honour, that, except my Imprisonment, I should have all the Civility I could desire, and wished me to send my mind to the Secretary. To which I replyed, Sir, how can I do that, which am immediately to be your close Prisoner? He then promised me to acquaint the Secretary* Nicholas *with my desires; Notwithstanding he sent me to lodge upon a very hard Flock-bed, much worse than are some Mats, whereon, after I had tyred my body for some nights, I desired but a Truss of Straw rather than such a Bed, and offered him payment for it, yet could not obtain the same; and because I could not comply with his exactions, to pay ten shillings a week for a Bed; twenty shillings for turning the Key; five shillings for use of a pair of Sheets; five shillings Garnish; and five pounds for Iron Fees, at nine dayes end (although in all that time neither Wife, Children, nor Friends were permitted to see or come near me) I was carried down two pair of stairs into a very strait Room, not above two steps wide, without a fire-place, and there lockt up for ten dayes, not permitting me to*

come

come forth to eaſe nature in fifteen or ſixteen hours together; and often when I called for Ale, either the bottom of ſome old barrel, or Ale and Urine mingled, they brought me to drink, which after taſted by two Priſoners Wives, I was enforced to throw it away, and for divers dayes to drink fair Water: But at length when they underſtood I was about to petition his Majeſty for Relief, I was put into another Room for twelve dayes time, whoſe windows were ſore broken, and no means by Glaſs, Paper, or otherwayes afforded to ſtop them, although daily promiſed; all which ill uſage had ſo much diſtempered my body, that my life was thereby endangered; and becauſe I could not comply to anſwer their Exactions, I was often threatned to be put into the Hole, when as I had neither money to buy my ſelf or family bread; and by their own defaults in keeping me without my Tools, I was diſabled to pay the premiſes: And, to manifeſt their further cruelty, when as my Wife by Petition obtained his Majeſties Order to have my Tools into the Priſon, and be continued in the Room I was then placed in for the better accommodation of my Trade, Sir Edward Broughton, *by his Deputy, took from my Children my Tools, not only depriving me of the uſe of them for theſe fifteen weeks paſt, but doth yet detain them in his hands, and will not reſtore them to my Wife or Children; ſo that herein by the Keeper I have ſuffered the loſſe of fifteen pounds that I could have gotten by my labour, and my Tools are of value near five pounds, which he hath in his hands or poſſeſſion, and further demands ſeven ſhillings a week for a Bed, in a Room heretofore ſet but for ſeven groats, with the aforeſaid Fees: whoſe due, and much more than the Law doth direct, for quietneſs ſake I have often offered to pay, ſo as he would but reſtore my Goods, and give a Receipt under his hand, to manifeſt a full Diſcharge, (becauſe 'tis uſual to demand Chamber-rent there after it hath been once paid) or elſe refer himſelf (as I deſire) to any Magiſtrate that he ſhall chuſe; But this my Keeper refuſeth to agree to, and 24 dayes ago, notwithſtanding the Kings Order, he cauſed my Bed, Bedding and Mats to be all taken from me, and refuſed to permit me have in a Bed of mine own, or ſo much as a Truſſe of Straw to lodge on; and his Deputy the 18th of* February *laſt openly ſaid,* That whereas all the cloſe Priſoners Wives had petitioned his Majeſty, deſiring their Husbands Liberty,

Liberty, or that they might be brought to a speedy Tryal according to Law, *he said*, their Petition should be spoiled, and that Sir *Edward Broughton* was gone to *Whitehall* for that purpose; *and two dayes after they had taken from me my Bed, four of his Officers and Souldiers, his Deputy-turnkey, Attendants, and the very Tapster (being Souldiers) took me up, being upon a Mat I had procured to lodge on, and by force carried me out of my Room through the Gallery to a close Room in the remotest part of the house, called the* Troploft, *allowing me but the boards to lodge on for these twenty four nights past, nor would the Keeper permit my son to bring me a bolster of Straw, but doth threaten often to board up my Window, so as then I shall have no Air to breath in. My Lords, it was the Bishop of* Worcester's *good Counsel to his Majesty at his Coronation*, A Prince should say, as *Nehemiah*, Should such a one as I, representing God in Greatness and Goodness, Rewarding such as do well, and punishing such as do evil; shall I do any thing that is mean, base, sinful, unjust, cruel, or dishonourable to Him whom I represent? *Now, my Lords, shall you the Judges of the Law know these Cruelties to be exercised on me under his Majesties Government, and not relieve me? God forbid. Examine the truth of my Complaint: once I have Sworn; twice I have given Security; four times I have been Imprisoned by malicious Contrivances; I have my* Habeas Corpus *granted, but cannot be brought forth: I desire your Lordships to Release me, or Remove me from this wretched place of torment; And if I must be detained, after above fifteen weeks Imprisonment, not knowing any cause thereof, let me be dealt with as a Man, and used and provided for as the Kings Prisoner ought to be by Law during my Restraint. Which is all at present from your Lordships most humble oppressed Prisoner,*

From my close Captivity in
the abominable Prison of
the *Gatehouse, Westminst.*
Febr. 11. 1661.

Henry Wansey.

WHich Letters being read by the Judges, the Lord chief Justice demanded who was the Presenter of them, and being owned by our

Friend, he alſo humbly prayed that his Lordſhip would be pleaſed to hear a Motion upon them: which being granted, Mr. Serjeant *Bearmould* ſeeing the ſaid Keeper of the *Gatehouſe* had not onely diſobeyed the firſt Writ, but alſo an Order of Court made the day before for bringing the Priſoners to the Bar, under the penalty of forty pounds, That an Atachment might be granted againſt the ſaid Keeper, or that the Priſoners might be brought before the Lord chief Juſtice (this being the laſt day of the Term) at his Chamber, that Bail might be put in before him there; but could not be obtained: But the Court did agree that it was fit to grant *an aliis Habeas Corpus* Returnable fifteen dayes after *Eaſter*, with a luſty Fine, becauſe that *Keeper* uſually diſobeyeth the Orders of the Court; which was done accordingly, under the Penalty of 100 l. And the Priſoners doubting that their uſage was like to be worſe from their *Keeper* than before, by Mr. Serjeant *Newdigate* moved the ſame day, That an Order might be made for their Solicitors, Atturneys and Friends to come to them, and to allow them the liberty of the Priſon-houſe: which was granted, as deſired, and being tranſlated into Engliſh, is as followeth.

Wedneſday eight dayes after the Purification of the bleſſed Mary, *in the fourteenth year of King* Charles *the ſecond, our Lord the King. Againſt the Keeper of the Priſon of the* Gatehouſe.

IT *is Ordered, That the Keeper of the ſaid Priſon permit the Solicitors, Atturneys and Friends of* William Kenwrick *and the other Priſoners in his Cuſtody, to come and ſpeak with the aforeſaid Priſoners; and to allow them the liberty of the Priſon-houſe, upon the Motion of Mr. Serjeant* Newdigate.

By the Court.

VVhich ſaid Order being the next day ſerved on Sir *Edward Broughton* the Keeper, he ſeemed to yeeld obedience to it, affording the benefit of it for one day; but by his Deputies the day following exerciſed as much ſtrictneſs as formerly, locking us up from the liberty of the houſe, denying our neareſt Relations and Servants with neceſſaries acceſs to us; our Solicitor alſo being then with us,

us, was uncivilly commanded away, and threatned to be made a Priſoner the enſuing morning: for all which, when we demanded a Reaſon, urging the Iudges Order to the contrary; they replyed, *The Secretary would bear them out, and that the Keyes for locking us up in the day-time was their Order.*

Being thus, after all our Expences and Endeavours to be brought forth to Tryal, and for obtaining our Liberties, through the injurious dealing of our Keeper, and his high contempt of Authority, fruſtrated in our Expectations; and our taking this legal courſe after other humble ſubmiſſive means failed, made rather as an aggravation of a crime againſt us by our *mercinary Keepers*, who are all Souldiers in pay, and in their own eſteem out of the reach of the Law; we were neceſſitated to repreſent our ſad Condition to the Right Honourable the *Lord High Chancelor*, and to the Honourable the *Lord Chief Juſtice*, and other the Iudges of the King's Bench, in theſe following Addreſſes.

To the Right Honourable the Lord high Chancellor of England, *theſe humbly preſent.*

MAy it pleaſe your Lordſhip, We take the boldneſs, being not a little oppreſſed, humbly to ſpread before your Lordſhip our Complaint, who have been kept (as we conceive) through miſinformation four months *Cloſe Priſoners* in the *Gatehouſe*, and more ſeverely dealt with than thoſe taken in open Hoſtility, or guilty of the higheſt Treaſons. And my Lord, to clear our ſelves, and make our Innocency appear, we have (by our VVives) uſed all imaginable ſubmiſſive petitionary means to his Majeſty and Council, who, through their weighty Affairs, neither admitted us a hearing, nor afforded us Relief, or ſo much as Anſwer; but only his Majeſties Secretary acquainted our VVives, that we and our Caſe were referred to my Lord Chief Iuſtice *Foſter*, the which neceſſitated our Relations to endeavour by VVrit to bring us laſt Term to the Kings Bench Bar, that his Lordſhip and the whole Nation might publickly know that we are faithful, peaceable, and obedient Subjects. But, my Lord, the VVrit being diſobeyed by our Keeper Sir *Edward Broughton*, we have no means left us to endea-

vour our enlargement till the next Term, ſave only by our Addreſſes to your Lordſhip, the *Seat of Equity*, being much encouraged thereunto by the *Act of Indempnity* and *Oblivion*, and your Honours many favourable Speeches thereupon.

Now foraſmuch as we are innocent perſons, and not guilty of the breach of any known Law, having been lately in like manner impriſoned (ſome of us three or four times) And that my Lord Chief Juſtice (to whom we apprehended our ſelves referred) is prevented at preſent (through the wilful and injurious neglect of Sir *Edward Broughton*) to afford us Relief, other than ordering us the legal favour of Converſe with our Friends, and the liberty of the Priſon-houſe to breath in; the which by our *Keepers* was after one day denyed us with more ſtrictneſs than before.

We therefore humbly pray, that your Lordſhip will in tender compaſſion repreſent our ſad condition to his Majeſty, minding his Majeſty of his *gracious Act of Indempnity*, and mediating for our preſent Liberty and future Protection, ſo that ſudden and ſpeedy Deſtruction do not utterly ruine thoſe, who through their many late great Loſſes and Impriſonments have hardly left wherewith to buy Bread. Thus craving your Honours charitable and favourable Aſpect on our Condition, we are your Lordſhips moſt humble Servants.

William Kenwrick, Leonard Lytcott, Timothy Wilkes,
Febr. 15. *John Maſon, Henry Wanſey, William Newman,*
1661. *John Chaffin.*

To the Honorable the Lord Chief Juſtice, and other the Judges of the Kings-Bench, theſe humbly preſent.

MY Lords, we cannot but with much thankfulneſs acknowledge your juſt Favour, upon our Motion made by Mr. Serjeant *Newdigate* upon the laſt day of the Term, ordering the Keeper to ſuffer our Solicitors, Atturneys, and Friends to come to us, and allowing us the liberty of the Priſon-houſe after ſixteen weeks cloſe Impriſonment, in which time our Friends have been detained

detained from us, to our great Impoveriſhment and almoſt utter undoing; Only one day the Jaylor yeelded obedience to your Order, but the next day they pretended Order for our cloſe Confinement, as formerly, which they put in practice, not ſhewing upon our demand any Order for the ſame. Might we but obtain leave to make our juſt Grievances known to your Lordſhips, we believe they are unparallel'd. Endeavours are uſed (as is privately intimated to us) to prevail with your Honour to make a new Rule, which if once done, will extend to a Confirmation of our cloſe Impriſonment, as if done by Law: this we are not eaſily induced to believe, that your Lordſhip ſhould ſuffer our Bonds to be made ſtronger by any proceedings from that Court from whom we expect relief. Whilſt we were preparing to preſent theſe few lines to your Lordſhips by our Solicitor, the Under-keeper forceth him from us, and openly declared before witneſs, *That your Lordſhip, with the reſt of the Judges, denyed you made any ſuch Order*, although the Solicitor proved before his face he delivered it to Sir *Edward Broughton*; and the Under-keeper had confeſſed the day after the Term it was delivered to Sir *Edward*, and further ſaid, *he was as glad as if he had an hundred pound given him, it would not rejoyce him more than that we had ſuch Liberty granted, as our freedom from cloſe Impriſonment*: Yet ſince our Servants are denyed to bring us neceſſaries, or to let us know whether our Wives and Children are dead or alive, ſome of them being very ſick; The which uſage doth not only increaſe the Afflictions of all our Relations, but much aggravate our own Sufferings, who are your Honours moſt humble Servants.

William Kenwrick, Leonard Lytcott,
From the Gate-houſe *Weſtminſt.* *John Maſon, Timothy Wilkes,*
Henry Wanſey, William Newman,
Febr. 15. 1661. *John Chaffin.*

It was our Intention to have inſerted the Anſwer to theſe laſt Addreſſes, but hearing it was the deſign of ſome great perſons, inſtead of making us Reparations, to ſend us to remote places, we

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are disappointed; only our Friend that presented them, conceives the Lord Chancellor disapproved of this injurious dealing with his Majesties peaceable Subjects, and that the Judges discovered a purpose not to recede from the Order for taking off our close Imprisonment, both in respect of the Justice and Legality thereof, and likewise, being granted the last day of the Term, it could not duly be altered; and until we see a better Order than this granted by his Majesties Judges in *Westminster Hall* to the contrary, we hope to be excused in our daily continuing to demand our Liberty therein allowed us, though the Insolency of those Souldiers (our Under-keepers) is such, as still to debar our Friends, Solicitors and Atturneys access to us, shewing us (when demanded) the *Keyes* for their Order; and, in a provoking manner, snatched a Pen out of the hand of one of our number, whilst writing out some part of our former *Addresses*; The benefit and supply of Pen, Ink and Paper being gained upon the Order for taking off our close Imprisonment, and whereof we are unwilling (but by violence) to be deprived; which we could little have expected from those hands, remembring that when we made known to them our purpose of endeavouring our Liberty this way, they not onely professed how glad they should be if we might attain it, but one of them brought us word that after the first Writ was served upon Sir *Edward Broughton*, he was sent from him to the Secretary, from whom (if his Master received not Orders to the contrary) we should be brought to the Bar; and both at that time, and formerly, told us, his Master cared not if we were discharged, knowing where to find others to fill up his Prison.

Thus having in all Reality discharged our Conscience, and humbly endeavoured to manifest to his Majesty and Council, the Lord Chancellor, and the honourable Judges, our Innocency and Faithfulness; and also, in part, the causless Sufferings of his Majesties peaceable and quiet Subjects, We shall in all Christian patience wait till the LORD in his Mercy shall graciously send Deliverance, being encouraged both from his Word and Promises to hope and expect seasonable Supports; as also by the Experiences of some, our next Chamber-fellows, who have lain more than thirteen

teen months Close Prisoners in this wretched *House of bondage*, under the threats and menaces of our Jaylors, having for some season worn very weighty Iron Chains on both legs day and night, and to this time knowing no more than we, either Accuser or Crime laid to their charge.

Yet if by the good Providence of God our happiness shall be made so great by some charitable hand, as to present this our suffering Condition to his Majesties view, with this assurance, That neither directly nor indirectly we have acted any thing against the present Government, but have lived in all peaceable submission thereunto; As also, acquainting his Majesty the great disservice done by those persons that make and continue Distinctions amongst his Majesties good Subjects, or endeavour to withdraw his Majesties Affections from them; we cannot then but hope his Majesty will no longer suffer us to be thus severely used, but will afford us Liberty and Protection according to our native Right, and the good old Laws of this *Kingdom*.

Febr. 20. 1661.

F I N I S.